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ABSTRACT

This issue both reports on the activities of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services since its creation in 1979 and documents the record of New York State governmental efforts in history and anthropology that will serve as a resource for future study. "Keepers of the Flame: History and State Government in New York" (Paul Scudiere) documents the history of state programs to preserve New York's historical resources from 1708 to the present. Description of the Historical Services Program includes sections on incorporating historical agencies, county and municipal historians, programming, a seminar on New York State History, women's history programs, the Apple Network of Historical Agencies, the Colonial Albany Social History Project, and the History Collections of the state museum. Description of the Anthropological Services Program includes sections on prehistoric research, including the Upper Susquehanna Project, the archaeology collections, informational services, student and volunteer programs, and public archaeology through the Cultural Resource Survey Program. Also listed are references on New York state archaeology and a listing of current staff of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services. (IS)

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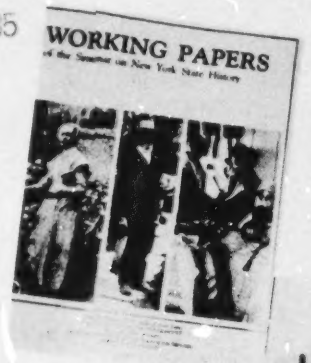
Special Report on the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services



This issue of the New York History Network has a two-fold purpose. First, it is a report to the field on the activities of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services since its creation in 1979. Second, it documents the record of New York State government efforts in history and anthropology which will serve a resource for future study.

The Division of Historical and Anthropological Services was established by a 1979 action of the New York State board of Regents, combining the offices of State Archeologist and State Historian as a new division in the New York State Museum. These units, with a long tradition of responsibility for collecting, preserving, and interpreting the prehistoric and historic record of human activity in New York State, were now together. By forming a separate division focusing on the study of human activity, the Regents gave special recognition to this important aspect of the State Museum's theme "People and Nature in New York State."

HISTORY DIRECTIONS

With a staff of twenty-five archeologists, historians, curators and support personnel, a collection of over 500,000 New York archeological and ethnological specimens, and more than 250,000 historical objects significant to New York history, the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services collects and preserves the record of human activity in New York State and interprets that record through exhibits, public programs, publications, and research projects.

Well, how have we done since 1979? As Governor Al Smith used to say, "Let's look at the record." Which brings us back to the purpose of this issue of the NETWORK. During these years, there were examples of progress as well as missed opportunities. Many of our successes were accomplished with few resources. Some of our opportunities were lost because of a lack of resources. Nevertheless, I hope you will agree that the efforts of these years have been positive and progressive.

On behalf of the staff of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, I thank you for your support in the past and hope we will continue to earn your confidence in the future. As always, your comments and suggestions are most welcome.

Paul J. Scudiere

Paul Scudiere
Director, Division of
Historical and Anthropological Services

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Keepers of the Flame: History and State Government in New York

by Paul Scudiere

New York State is actively collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people. Today, the State boasts a museum historical collection of over a quarter million objects; 34 historic sites, each with significant historical collections; an archives and local records program to protect the historically significant records of State and local government; a manuscripts and history library to preserve historically important books and nongovernment records; financial and technical assistance to museums, historical societies, archives and historic preservation groups; and publications and programs directed toward the State's historical community. By any standard, it is a major State commitment. The development of these programs is itself an important story, and the following is a brief history of State government's efforts to protect New York's past.

The genesis of New York's program was a bill passed in 1708 by the Legislative Council of New York to assure the preservation of Dutch records relating to the province of New York. There is no other evidence of a government attempt to preserve historical records until almost fifty years later when, in 1754, Jacob Goelet was appointed "Interpreter and translator of the Low Dutch Language" to resolve land disputes involving New York's eastern boundaries. Although his appointment was not for the intention of translating all of the Dutch records, Goelet managed to organize these records into 47 volumes. After the American Revolution, these records were deposited with the Secretary of State.

In 1805 James Van Ingen was employed by the Secretary of State to translate several volumes of the Dutch records. However, by 1818 he had made little progress. Due to this slow pace, Governor DeWitt Clinton commissioned Adriaen Van der Kemp to produce a complete translation of all the Dutch records in the Secretary of State's Office. In spite of poor eyesight, Van der Kemp produced 42 volumes of translations over a three-year period. However, they were far from complete, and in his haste to complete the work before De Witt Clinton left office, Van der Kemp omitted long passages and summarized portions of the records. As a result, the work later proved to be unreliable.

Concern for the State's heritage did not stop with the completion of the Van der Kemp translation. The members of the New-York Historical Society were interested in the large number of Dutch records relating to New York State that were housed in European archives. The Society was incorporated in New York City in 1804, and it included De Witt Clinton among its founders and members. Ostensibly, it had the support of State government when the New York State Legislature granted the Society $12,000 as part of the proceeds of a state lottery in 1814. Unfortunately, after the Society borrowed funds in anticipation of the grant, the money never materialized. By 1820, the Society's debt was $15000, and it was almost forced to sell its 4000-volume library. Finally, to add insult to injury, the State did provide $5000, but only on the condition that the Society pay off its debt, which it finally did.

Because of its interest in the Dutch records located in Europe, the New-York Historical Society petitioned Governor Seward in 1839 to support a project of gathering and translating New York-related Dutch records housed in European archives. A popular story

Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, 1797-1880.

associated with this effort gives credit to Washington Irving for stirring up Dutch descendents. In Irving's book "The History of New York From the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty," he poked fun at Dutch families, as well as some of the origins of place names. For example, Irving said that Manhattan was named for a tribe of Indians that wore hats "Man-Hat-On," and that the Beekmans were a family known for their long noses or beaks. Years later, Irving explained that his intention was to awaken interest in the neglected past.

Whether it was due to Irving's satire or not, the New York State Legislature appropriated funds in 1841 to support the collection of New York-related historical materials from Europe. John Brodhead, a relative of Harmanus Bleecker who was then minister to the Netherlands, was appointed by Governor Seward to carry out this assignment. He spent three years in Holland, France, and England and returned to New York in 1844 with 80 volumes of New York material, including 16 volumes or 4000 pages of transcripts of

original records from the Hague and Amsterdam. The duty of editing and translating these 4000 pages was given to Edmund O'Callaghan. By 1851, the four-volume set entitled **The Documentary History of New York** was printed, and O'Callaghan was then assigned the task of editing and translating the rest of the material collected by Brodhead. This culminated in the 11-volume **Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York.** For the first time, New York State had a body of printed documentary sources.

O'Callaghan was succeeded by Berthold Fernow as translator and editor of New York's Dutch records. His translations were published in 1881 and added as volumes 12 through 14 to the O'Callaghan series of **Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York.** In this same year the colonial records were transferred to the New York State Library.

In 1895 New York designated its first State Historian, Hugh Hastings. His duties were strictly limited to the collection and publication of official records relating to the wars of the United States. According to his first annual report in 1896, he planned to publish documentary materials from the colonial period until 1865, and to secure complete lists of those who served during all the wars in which the United States had taken part.

State Historian Hugh Hastings.

Hastings was a very active compiler of documentary materials. In addition to his work on the colonial records, he was responsible for beginning publication of the public papers of Governors George Clinton and Daniel Tompkins. He also published four volumes of the **Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment 1783-1821,** a volume entitled **New York and the War with Spain,** and he began publication of the **Ecclesiastical Records of the State of New York.**

Victor Hugo Paltsits succeeded Hastings in 1907. As State Historian until 1911 and later from his position in the New York Public Library, Paltsits was known for his meticulous historical editing. He once described his work in this way: "The modern historical canons are exacting, and an editor must be able to honor them. He must reproduce faithfully all of the idiosyncracies of every letter, document or other manuscript, and be able to interpret the varying forms of handwriting, often written badly, illiterate, faded and even torn or rotten. They must be presented in an orderly form, with such accompanying critical apparatus as each case may suggest or require."

Paltsits continued the work begun by Hastings. He revised and improved Hastings' index to the **Papers of George Clinton,** and he completed a two-volume compilation of the **Minutes of the Executive Council of the Province of New York, 1668-1673** (he gathered and copied by hand most of the hundreds of documents for the **Minutes**).

In addition to his editorial work, Paltsits was very concerned about the lack of records preservation in New York State, proclaiming: "Let no one believe that these things are being done in the State of New York, for it is an unfortunate fact that she is far behind other States." Ironically, it was Paltsits' concern over the lack of an effective program to preserve the State's records that led to a serious conflict between Paltsits and the Commissioner of Education, Andrew Draper.

Victor Hugo Paltsits who fought a losing battle with Education Department Commissioner Andrew Draper to maintain the independence of the State Historian's office.

In 1909, Paltsits drafted a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Executive Law, Relating to the Powers and Duties of the State Historian." The purpose of this bill was to give the State Historian the responsibility for preserving historically significant State and local records. At this time the position of State Historian was in the Secretary of State's Office and was filled by appointment of the Governor, subject to a term of three years. However, many of the records of concern to Paltsits and covered by the proposed legislation were the custody of the State Library, under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents and the State Education Department.

Paltsits insisted upon, and by his legislation sought to mandate, the State Historian's editorial control of the documents in the State Library, while

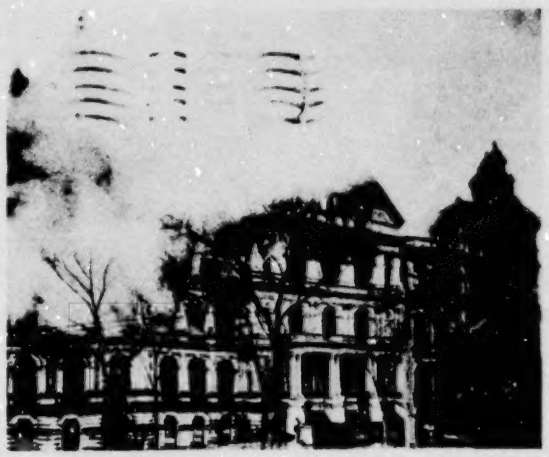
Draper maintained that this work must be done by a staff member of the Education Department. At a meeting between Paltsits and Draper in January 1909, Commissioner Draper informed Paltsits that the State Historian's Office would be more effective under the jurisdiction of the State Education Department. He claimed that the lack of political interference and an unlimited term of office would benefit the State Historian's work. But Paltsits refused to withdraw his bill. He believed that the municipal and county clerks who had custody of the local records covered by his proposed legislation would object to the jurisdiction of the Education Department. Paltsits further claimed that his bill had the approval of New York's historical scholars who saw one of the State Historian's functions as that of State Records Commissioner.

What followed was a lengthy and often bitter struggle between Paltsits and Draper. The Commissioner of Education launched a lobbying effort to prevent approval of Paltsits' bill. With the bill close to passage in the Assembly, Draper requested a hearing in which he objected to some of the provisions of the bill. The Commissioner's action on what appeared to be a noncontroversial matter, prompted this April 24, 1909 editorial in the **Plattsburgh Republican:** "The peculiarly pervasive and absorbent qualities of the Head of the State Department of Education may be well adapted to developing and rounding out a czar-like personality, but they are not specially fitted to build up what ought to be the most efficient educational system in the United States." The editorial continued: "The same pervasive qualities have just been reaching out after the state historian's office. A bill has just been up before the State Legislature which makes some grudging provision for enlarging the functions of that office. The head of the Education Department felt it incumbent to interfere and make suggestions, and it is very apparent that the Education Department would like to absorb the state historian and set him at work as a third-class clerk in the bureaucratic monstrosity which the Department is fast becoming."

In spite of Draper's objections, the Paltsits bill passed the State Assembly on April 15, 1909 with only one dissenting vote. However, six days later, without the knowledge of Paltsits or the bill's original Assembly sponsor James Francis, a new version of the Assembly bill was introduced in the Senate. Under the terms of this substitute bill, the State Historian's Office would be transferred from the Executive Department to the Education Department, subject to the direction of the Commissioner of Education. This bill passed the Senate. Since it differed from the original Assembly version, it was returned to the Assembly for concurrence. Assemblyman Francis refused to accept the substantial changes made in his original bill and sent it to the Assembly Rules Committee, the usual mechanism for giving bills a decent burial. However, Francis underestimated the strength of the Education Department's lobby. Without his knowledge, the bill was reported out of the Rules Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for final approval. Francis, outraged by this turn of events, made a dramatic appeal on the floor of the Assembly, saying in part "Mr. Speaker, the state historian if given a chance will show what an administrative office the office can be made. The Commissioner of Education holds nothing more than a pedagogical position. He is not supposed to reach out for this and that department because it has something to do with the cultural interest of the state. If that were true he might go into the Long Island district and take care of the shell fish industry."

As a result of the appeal by Assemblyman Francis, the substituted bill was defeated by the Assembly, and the matter was ended for the 1909 legislative session. In great anguish Paltsits wrote, "Do the historical societies and persons interested in the history of the state wish to have preserved the present existing executive relation of New York State to historical scholarship, and will they uphold it? Will they watch with the eyes of Argus for preventing the works assassination in the night time?"

Paltsits continued the battle in the 1910 legislative session, but without the support of Assemblyman Francis who had not run for reelection. However, Paltsits was able to muster support from such eminent historians as Charles Beard, J. Franklyn Jameson, Charles M. Andrews, Herbert Osgood, and a number of others to prevent passage of the 1910 Education Department-sponsored bill. But Commissioner Draper did not give up, and was even more determined to pass the Department's bill by the 1911 legislative session.



The Capitol burning on March 29, 1911.

As the struggle continued, it was complicated even further by the tragic and destructive fire in the State Capitol. All of the administrative offices of the Education Department including the State Library and the collections of the State Museum were housed there. The fire started between two and three a.m. on the morning of March 29. The Albany **Times Union** reported in its March 30th edition that the fire started in the Assembly Library, apparently caused by a lighted cigarette that had been thrown behind one of the desks. Those first on the scene reported seeing a desk in the corner of the Assembly Library engulfed in flames. Others blamed faulty wiring for starting the fire. Regardless of the cause, the results were devastating.

Samuel Abbott, the nightwatchman employed by the State Library, was killed in the fire. The State Library and State Museum lost 450,000 books, 270,000 manuscripts, 300,000 pamphlets and catalogs, several cases of rare coins and medals, and several major archeological and ethnological collections totalling 9000 specimens (including costumes and fabrics from the Lewis Morgan Iroquois Collection). It was probably the worst library and archival fire in American history.

The salvage work began immediately under the guidance of William Berwick, an expert in manuscript restoration sent by the Library of Congress. Paltsits, so caught up in the struggle over the State Historian's Office, openly criticized the methods used by the State Library to salvage the manuscripts and cited the fire as an indication of the Education Department's inability to care for the records under its control.

When Draper again asked the Regents to support his bill to transfer the State Historian's Office to the Education Department, it was clear that the struggle with Paltsits had become very personal. At the April 19, 1911 Regents meeting the Commissioner said in part, "From the advent of the present state historian, he has sought legislation which would give him some control over the collections of the State Library. These attempts have been resisted and defeated. In the meantime he has persecuted a campaign of criticism

Ruins after the fire at the State Capitol in 1911.

and abuse against the officers of the Department who have resisted his efforts to get some manner of control over the State Library. He has been particularly abusive since the fire in the Capitol, criticizing the methods employed by the officers of the State Library and the experts of national repute on the recovery of damaged manuscripts. He has made himself offensive not only to the officers of the Education Department but to the higher officers of the state, and has succeeded in confusing and misleading a great many people who are not familiar with the facts."

The Education Department's proposed bill was subsequently introduced in the Assembly by Al Smith, approved by the Legislature and Governor in May, and took effect in October 1911. In a final act of defiance, Paltsits resigned before the act took effect so that Governor Dix and not Commissioner Draper could appoint his successor, James Holden. In light of all that had occurred, the 1912 **Red Book** account of these events was a masterpiece of understatement: "After mature deliberation it was decided for the best interests of the state and all concerned that the state historian's office should be connected with the Education Department, with which its interests are so closely identified and interwoven."

President Theodore Roosevelt.

The 1911 law transferring the State Historian's Office to the Education Department also created the position of supervisor of public records. In 1915 these two positions were housed in one office, with the State Historian also holding the title of Director of Archives and History. This took place during the tenure of James Holden as State Historian between 1911 and 1916. Although Holden was occupied with salvaging manuscripts damaged in the 1911 fire, he did resume some editorial work and was primarily responsible for planning the centennial of the Battle of Plattsburgh. During Holden's incumbency, the close relationship between the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown and the State Historian was established. Holden was appointed as the Association's representative in matters involving the Association and the departments of State government. His administration also began a local records program to preserve historically significant records.

In Holden's final year as State Historian, the new State Museum was dedicated in the Education Building. Although it was basically a natural science musuem, its important role in the future as a collector and preserver of the State's heritage was encouraged by

former President Theodore Roosevelt. In his speech at the dedication, Roosevelt declared, "I warmly sympathize with the ambition expressed in your annual report to have this museum of arts and letters as well as a museum of natural history...There should be here a representation of all colonial and revolutionary life. There should be in this museum for the instruction and inspiration of our people, a full representation of American history since the time when New York cast off its provincial character and became an integral portion of the American republic." His supportive words were the beginning of a modest effort to collect historical objects of significance to New York State history that eventually developed into the important collection in place today.

State Historian Holden was succeeded by James Sullivan in 1916. Sullivan had enjoyed a successful career as a teacher and administrator in the New York City school system and as Assistant Commissioner for elementary education in the Education Department. As State Historian, Sullivan was responsible for publishing the first three volumes of the **Papers of Sir William Johnson**, and he travelled to Holland, France, and England trying to acquire copies of New York-related manuscripts to replace some of those lost in the fire. However, Sullivan's most notable achievement was his success in securing passage of a law mandating appointment of local historians in every city, town, and village of the State. The 1919 law required appointed historians to collect and preserve historical materials relating to their communities and to file them in local public offices for safekeeping. It also required the State Historian to instruct local historians in their duties. A 1921 law permitted local authorities to appropriate funds to gather and publish material on World War I. This resulted in the appointment of several county historians. Later, in 1933, the local historians law was revised to permit the appointment of county historians in every county of the State. Until recently, when joined by New Jersey, New York State had the distinction of being the only state in the United States with a network of officially appointed local historians.

In 1923 Alexander C. Flick became State Historian and remained in office until 1939. Formerly a professor of history at Syracuse University, Flick had an immense record of publications, and during his incumbency, the State Historian's Office flourished. Six volumes of the **Johnson Papers** and at least a dozen additional volumes of public papers were published. His impressive contributions to the history of New York State also included the ten-volume **History of New York State**, the **American Revolution in New York, Loyalism in New York During the American Revolution**, his two volumes relating to the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition, and the extensive number of articles and book reviews he wrote as editor of **New York History**, the quarterly journal of the New York State Historical Association.

In addition to research and writing, Flick planned the sesquicentennial celebration of the American Revolution. Between 1925 and 1933, the State Historian's Office erected 6000 cast iron and 400 bronze markers. Flick's sesquicentennial experience alerted him to the lack of care given to many important Revolutionary War State Historic Sites, such as Washington's Headquarters, the first State-preserved historic site in the country. He became aware of the need for the State to develop a comprehensive historic sites program. As a member of the State Council of Parks, Flick proposed that historic properties belonging to the State be transferred from several separate park commissions to a central agency for proper care. Although it was five years after Flick retired, in 1944 27 State Historic Sites were transferred to the Education Department from the Conservation Department. The Board of Regents enacted guidelines for the proper care and restoration of these properties. (The Education Department had responsibility for the sites until 1966; today, the State Historic Sites are managed by the Division for Historic Preservation of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.)

State Historian Albert Corey.

In 1940, Arthur Pound became the new State Historian. He was an editor of the **Atlantic Monthly** and had written a biography of Sir William Johnson and several books on industrial history. During his tenure, the publication of documentary source materials was not possible because of the paper shortage caused by the war, so he directed the State Historian's Office toward other areas of historical activity. He issued a bi-monthly historical statement for the press and delivered papers on historical themes to a wide variety of audiences around the State. Pound also urged local historians to collect and preserve records of World War II and published a **War Records Handbook** to guide them in their work. At the time, his handbook was regarded as basic for all preservation work relating to war records. Working in cooperation with the Works Project Administration (WPA), Pound was instrumental in starting the New York Album, a photographic survey of important historic houses in the State. He worked on a manuscript of place names in New York and prepared a

guide to manuscript collections in New York State. He was also responsible for beginning training sessions for local records custodians such as county, town, and village clerks.

In 1944, Albert Corey, a professor of history from St. Lawrence University, was appointed State Historian. Because of the continuing shortage of paper and appropriations caused by World War II, he still could not publish documentary source materials. As a result, Corey gave his full attention to the development of work in local history throughout the State. In 1945 and 1946, he conducted three-day institutes in Albany to train local historians. The following year he held one-day institutes for the same purpose in fifteen different locations around the State. Corey also met with county and municipal boards of supervisors in an effort to gain recognition of the local historian as a local public officer, trying to secure salaries and expense accounts for them. Also during Corey's tenure the number of Regents-chartered historical societies in the State increased to almost 200. The State Historian helped each society organize and establish better standards for research, publication, and preservation of historical materials.

Corey not only increased service to the historical community of the State, but after the war he also reinstituted the program of publishing historical documents. With Milton Hamilton serving as editor, volumes 10, 11, and 12 of the **Papers of Sir William Johnson** were published. Corey's administration also produced a series of popular histories in pamphlet form on topics such as "Sir William Johnson and the Indians," "Henry Hudson and the Dutch" and "Champlain and the French."

In 1948, in an effort to promote research in New York State history and establish a professional dialogue, Corey helped organize the Annual Meeting of Historians and Political Scientists of New York's Colleges and Universities. And several years later, he began the tradition of showcasing ongoing New York historical research by publishing an annual list of research in progress in **New York History**, the quarterly journal of the New York State Historical Association. Tragically, Albert Corey was killed in an automobile accident in 1964 while on one of his many trips to serve the historical community of New York State.

Two years elapsed before the appointment of Corey's successor, Louis L. Tucker. Tucker's period coincided with the Bicentennial of the American Revolution and most of his efforts were dedicated to commemorating that event. Under Tucker's leadership, a large number of popular histories were produced for the bicentennial, and he was responsible for managing the successful bicentennial barge program which toured the State during 1976. In addition to his bicentennial activities, Tucker and his office continued the traditional work of the State Historian's Office by organizing programs for local historians, historical societies, and scholars specializing in New York history. Ironically, the State's fiscal crisis in 1976 ended Tucker's term of office at the peak of bicentennial activity. He continued as Executive Director of the State Bicentennial Commission until leaving the State in 1977 to become Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Since 1976, the administration of the State history program in New York has sought renewed status. Although the flame was dimmed for a while, it has kept burning. Even though no one is officially designated as State Historian, the traditional functions of that position are now carried out by the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, created as a component of the New York State Museum in 1979. Efforts to train local historians and to charter museums and historical societies have continued under the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services. The Division has also maintained the State's commitment to history research, publications, and public programming.

In the almost 300 years since the Legislative Council of New York passed a bill to assure preservation of Dutch records, the government of New York State has established a proud tradition of supporting the collection, preservation, and interpretation of its people's history. And, today, it is a tradition with a bright future as well.

The Historical Services Program

New York State's history community is as diverse as the population of the State. It includes school children and senior citizens; professionally trained historians with a special interest in New York history, and those for whom the history of New York is an exciting avocation; the staffs and trustees of New York's historical agencies, and the countless number who benefit from their programs; public county, town, village, and city historians; college and university students majoring in history with a specialty in state and local history, and teachers of social studies. Taken together, New York's history community includes thousands of individuals, organizations, and institutions. Assisting and cooperating with this community is a major mission of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services. This is accomplished in a variety of ways and is sustained through a number of programs and projects.

Incorporating Historical Agencies

One of the Division's most important responsibilities is the incorporation of museums, historical societies, and related cultural agencies. In order for these institutions and organizations to attain corporate status in New York State, they must apply to the Board of Regents which has the authority to create educational corporations. The Regents have this responsibility because cultural agencies like museums and historical societies are considered to be an important component of New York's educational system, just as schools and colleges are. New York is unique in this incorporating function, and in the standards established for judging applications for incorporation. Staff of the history services unit review applications based on these standards, and make recommendations for action by the Board of Regents. Although this is a regulatory function, the focus of the staff is developmental. Individuals who wish to incorporate a museum or historical society, for example, are given programmatic assistance as well as advice on the process of incorporation. Since most of these institutions are in the early stages of development, a major concern of the staff is to encourage good professional practices and long-range planning.

Although the Board of Regents has been incorporating museums and historical societies since the 1850's, in the last five years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of applications. Much of this no doubt resulted from the enthusiasm generated by the celebration of the bicentennial of the American Revolution. In any case, over 400 actions on incorporation requiring recommendations by the staff have been recorded in the last five years, bringing the total number of incorporated museums, historical societies, and related cultural agencies in New York State to over 1400. All of these institutions and organizations comprise a major constituency of the Division. Although current resources do not permit an extensive program of technical assistance to these historical agencies, the Division cooperates with a number of regional groups which do provide this assistance.

Home of the Madison County Historical Society in Oneida. Courtesy Madison County Historical Society.

County and Municipal Historians

The appointment of historians by local government was mandated at the town, village and city levels by the New York State Legislature in 1919, and later extended to counties. These historians, numbering close to 1400 statewide, are charged with collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of their communities. To support their efforts, the Division sponsors a series of inservice training programs. Some of these are conducted in cooperation with meetings of the County Historians' and Municipal Historians' Associations, a tradition which began in the late 1960's. In the last five years, however, the Division added a highly successful annual three-day Institute for Local Historians, and a series of one-day workshops. Each Spring, 20-30 locally appointed historians from large and small communities across the State have been

brought together at the Rensselaerville Conference Center for three days of intensive training and practice in historical research, preservation, programming, and community service. The program also provides discussion and other informal learning opportunities. The Institute has awarded certificates to over seventy-five of its graduates.

In 1983, the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services staged three one-day versions of the Institute in Glen Cove (Nassau County), Mumford (Monroe County), and at Paul Smith's (Franklin County). These Field Institutes compressed the Rensselaerville curriculum and focused it on the historian of suburban, rural, and North Country communities respectively. More than 150 people attended these three sessions. In 1984, a Field Institute was held at the Holland Land Office Museum in Batavia. That program focused on community history and in particular on resources for the history of the Genesee Valley.

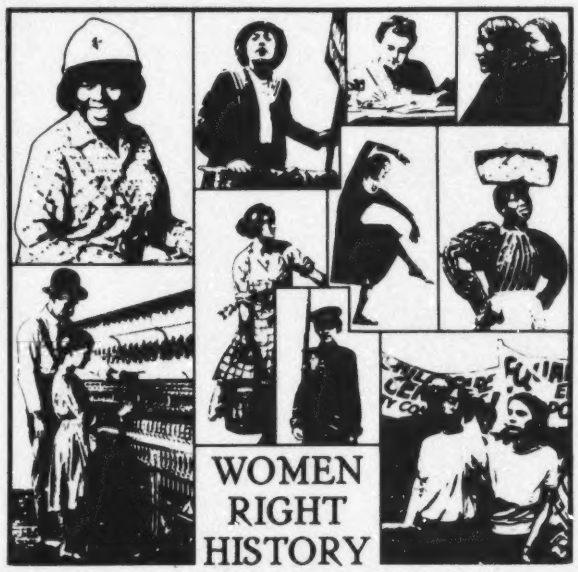
All of these programs have emphasized the importance of the local historian as community historian, providing basic training and developing a support network of those working in the field of local and community history. Future Institutes will reach out to teachers and other public historians in addition to the appointed county and municipal historians.

Programming

In 1980 the Division combined its College Conference on New York State History, which had served college history teachers for almost a quarter century, with the annual meeting of the New York State Studies Group to form the Conference on New York State History. The Conference is held each spring and has broadened its scope to present sessions, exhibits, and panels on the general topic of people in New York's past. The Conference offers concurrent sessions which enable up to fifty people from academic, museum, public history, archival, library, and education backgrounds to participate. Since 1980 the Conference has been held at SUNY Binghamton, SUC at New Paltz, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Pace University in Westchester County, and St. John Fisher College in Rochester. The 1985 Conference will be hosted by Hofstra University on June 7 in Hempstead, Long Island.

The Seminar on New York State History

The Seminar on New York State History was formed as the "Albany Seminar" in 1979 to bring together on a monthly basis those interested in the study of New York history for an evening of learning and discussion. Each seminar was organized around a presentation by a historian engaged in new work on people in New York's past. Joel Silbey of Cornell University was the first speaker in October 1979, and his presentation on voting behavior was attended by over fifty people. Since then, the Seminar, recast as the Seminar on New York State History, has developed a membership of over 200 people. Linked to field programs of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, and with those of other organizations, the Seminar has traveled to all parts of New York State and presented over forty historians speaking on topics ranging from Dutch merchants to those who came to New York since the 1965 change in the Immigration law. In addition, presentations of the Seminar have been published in an annual collection entitled **Working Papers of the Seminar on New York State History.** Seminar members frequently are recommended as program participants, consultants, and as resource persons.



Women's history programs are a recent but developing outreach effort of the Division. They began during 1982 when the Seminar sponsored Doris Daniels of Nassau Community College on "The Feminism of Lillian Wald" at the spring meeting of the Upstate New York Women's History Conference held at the New York State Museum. Since then, the Seminar has focused attention on women every year during National Women's History Week (the first week in March). On March 7, 1983, Amy Swerdlow of Sarah Lawrence College spoke on "New York Women Strike for Peace" and, in the following year, "'Ruined Girls': Family and Community Responses to Illegitimacy in Upstate New York, 1890-1920" was the topic addressed by Joan Jacobs Brumberg of the New York State College of Human Ecology and Cornell University.

This year, for National Women's History Week, the Seminar was a cosponsor of the State Museum's "Women Right History: A Conference on Feminist Issues in Historical Perspective." This conference featured major addresses by Blanche Wiesen Cook of John Jay College and former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, along with 23 other speakers on topics including women office workers, battered women,

Iroquois women, lesbians, utopian communities, and many others. Almost 800 people registered at the "Women Right History" conference, and its huge success guarantees that women's history will have a prominent place in the future of programming and publications at the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services.

Apple Network of Historical Agencies

Regional organizations, supported in part by grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, include the Regional Conference of Historical Agencies, the Federation of Historical Services, the Lower Hudson Conference, and the recently established Western New York Federation. Taken in the aggregate, these regional organizations serve historical societies, museums, and local historians in over forty counties in New York State. With the exception of the newly created federation in western New York, regional organizations are linked with the Division by a computer network donated by Apple Computer Corporation. Information of interest to historical agencies can now be shared through a telecommunications network. The use of this technology makes these regional organizations even more efficient providers of technical assistance to historical societies and museums. Local historians located in regions served by regional groups also benefit from the creation of the Apple Network. These historians are a major Division constituency for which inservice training programs have been developed.

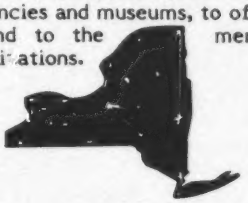
Publications

Division publications present historical information in interpretive narratives, serve as guides to historical resources, offer advice on theory and practice in State and local history, and present information on Division programs and on history-related activities and opportunities in New York State.

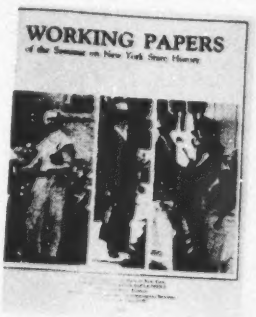
Research and Publications in New York State History is a comprehensive, annual bibliography of works published and in progress. Based on an exhaustive search of bibliographic resources, publications, and contacts with an extensive network of publishers, authors, and hobbyists, each edition of **Research and Publications** lists and describes works published and in progress covering a given year from 1976 until 1982 when it was discontinued. **Research and Publications** is distributed free of charge to libraries, historical agencies, and to officially appointed county and municipal historians. It also is available for sale from the Gifts and Exchange section of the New York State Library.

The Division of Historical and Anthropological Services has produced a series of bibliographical sheets in the series **New York in Books.** These are used to answer inquiries and include a list of general works and also lists on more specific topics. "The Historian's Library" and "State and Local History: A Selected Bibliography" are available in the "New York in Books" series and were produced in conjunction with the Institute for Local Historians program. Bibliographical issues also are the subject of articles and features in the **Network** newsletter. In addition, the Colonial Albany Social History Project has issued its first bibliographic publication on the people of colonial Albany.

The **New York State History Network** is a statewide history newsletter which presents program and substantive information on historical topics and history activities in New York State. The **Network** was initiated in 1978 as the "New York Studies News" and today is issued three times a year and is supplemented by a quarterly "Network Calendar." The **Network** is the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services' calling card in the field and is sent to schools, libraries, historical agencies and museums, to officially appointed historians, and to the members of history support organizations.



Working Papers of the Seminar on New York State History is an annual collection of articles and essays published for each Seminar season beginning in 1982. **Working Papers** is designed to share the Seminar experience with those who cannot attend every session. Each Seminar speaker is encouraged to contribute either the formalized version of the actual presentation, a summary of the presentation, an essay discussing relevant issues, or a bibliographical essay, or an essay on the sources. The **Working Papers** is a major benefit of Seminar membership.



The **Historian's Guide** is an open-ended series of articles written by leaders in the field of local and community history and is designed to serve as a curriculum for local historians in New York State. Published to date are chapters on the history of the local historian movement in New York State and an overview piece on general activity areas for local historians. Other articles based on the presentations given at the Institutes for Local Historians are planned.

Other publications include a series of leaflets entitled "Borough Brochures" which describe the human experience in the Greater New York City area and which were published in support of the "Metropolis" exhibit at the New York State Museum. Brochures on Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, and Westchester counties are in print. "Theme Booklets" consider individual topics in New York State history and are presented in an attractive, readable, pamphlet format. The first

two booklets on New York City neighborhoods and on the Seneca Falls Women's Rights convention of 1848 will be in print soon.

Publications currently available, including many from the NY Bicentennial Commission, can be ordered directly from the Division.

Historical Research:

The Colonial Albany Social History Project

The Colonial Albany Social History Project is a cooperative community history program designed to study the everyday lives of those who lived in the city of Albany before the year 1800. Begun in 1980 by Stefan Bielinski, Division Historian, the Colonial Albany Project has become a model of social history research and a working example of community history theory in practice

The Project employs innovative programming approaches to present the story of the people of colonial Albany to diverse audiences today, ranging from school children to community residents to scholars and other members of the historical community. To achieve its goal of knowing all of the people who lived in the community before the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, the Project has undertaken a comprehensive program of historical research in documentary, visual, and three-dimensional historical resources. During the course of collecting and processing information on the people of colonial Albany and their world, a new set of historical resources is being created. These have taken the forms of comprehensive life course profiles for each of the 16,000 people who lived in the community; a graphics archive consisting of historic portraits, views, maps, as well as adapted and creative visuals which have been developed from existing graphics materials; a data base calendar of events describing community and other relevant activities; and a data base of bibliographic and instructional resources. Used together, these resources enable Project staff to produce and present programs on the people of colonial Albany ranging from publications, lectures, and exhibits to media presentations and outreach programming that can be integrated into the regular activities of varied audience groups.

The Colonial Albany Project is the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services' model community history program. It serves as a working example to support the DHAS's mandate to provide direction and guidance to local historians, historical agencies, and to teachers of history at all levels. The Project has developed substantial bonds with each of these constituent groups. The Project draws on its evolving experiences in historical research and analysis, information management, and the development and presentation of programs. The Colonial Albany Project applies its experiences and resources in support of the programs of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services and other educational agencies, organizations, and institutions. As a program of a public service institution, services to the historical community are a primary concern of the Project.

The staff of the Colonial Albany Project includes employees of the State Museum, cooperating colleagues from the larger historical community, student interns, and a group of regular volunteers called Project Associates. These historians work together to achieve the Project's research, programming, and service objectives which are revised, updated, and issued quarterly under the title of "The People of Colonial Albany: A Guide to Operations." The Colonial Albany Social History Project is seeking to involve historians

Shirley Rice, Tom Burke, Karen Phillips, Stefan Bielinski, and student interns at work on the Colonial Albany Social History Project.

from diverse backgrounds in the creation of a new, more personal historical record and in the presentation of that record in ways that will be both interesting and useful to a broad audience.

The History Collections

Since the establishment of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services in 1979, the History Collections of the State Museum have earned national attention in exhibits and edged into the age of computerization.

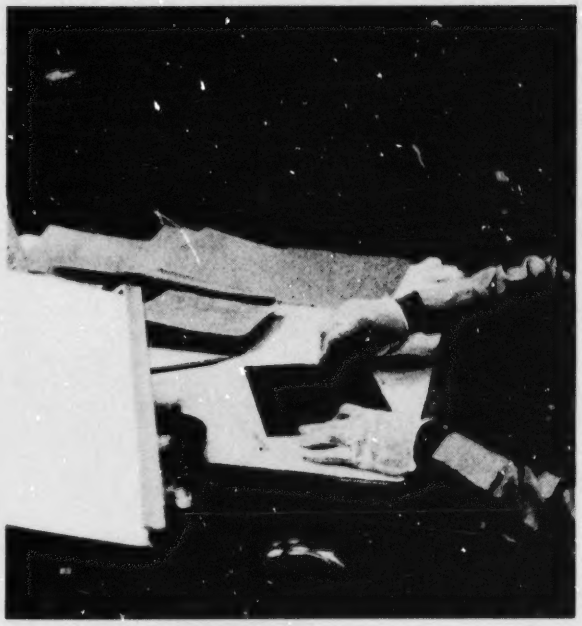
The Collections changed radically in not only size but scope, subject matter, and interpretation. Originally, they had consisted principally of memorabilia, souvenirs, relics, curiosities, random items associated with historic events or people, and

only an occasional object measuring up to today's museum criteria. In this respect, they resembled many other museum collections. The most noteworthy were a number of pieces of New York marked, blue-decorated stoneware; an important group of 19th-century farm implements received from the New York State Agricultural Society many years earlier; a large collection of paintings and drawings by New York artist Edward Lamson Henry with related scrapbooks and manuscript material; and the most extensive and significant assemblage in any museum of tools and implements used by the Shakers in their Community Industries, complemented by furniture, domestic furnishings, and other materials acquired directly from members of the local Shaker villages.

By the mid-1960's, few exhibits in the State Museum (which was still housed in the State Education Building on Washington Avenue) dealt with the history of New York. Scientific and anthropological collections predominated, with exhibit techniques ranging from the venerable Indian Life Groups and a mastodon to mid-20th-century attempts at interpretive panels and cases. The History Collections had been transferred to the Division of Archives and History administered by the State Historian and were virtually homeless from an exhibition standpoint. The decision to include a new State Museum in the construction plans for a State office complex south of the Capitol signaled a need for a revitalization and expansion of the History Collections. In 1966, the Division was elevated to the Office of State History under the direction of an Assistant Commissioner, and its professional staff working with the Collections was increased from one person to six. This number later fluctuated with loss of some positions during times of fiscal crisis and occasional recovery through reassignment of others. It eventually reached the present staff of nine, headed by the Chief Curator and reporting to the Director of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services (successor to the Office of State History).

The new Curators, who assumed their duties in the summer of 1967, were confronted with an unorthodox, if not unique, situation. In an office in a remote part of the Education Building's fourth floor, they were physically separated both from the State History offices in another building across Elk Street and from the Collections for which they were responsible. A sizable quantity of historical items occupied part of a former exhibit hall in the Museum, together with some scientific specimens. The bulk of the History Collections, however, was stored in a building leased by the State on Broadway about two miles from downtown Albany. The Collections were accessible only during weekday business hours because it was necessary to pass through the front section occupied by a phonograph-record distributing firm. Employees of that firm also had custody of the key to Collections storage, in case of fire or suspicious sounds in the rear section. The storage area was virtually unheated, dimly lighted, and dirty. By the end of March 1968, temporary relief was afforded by moving the Collections from Broadway to space in the Museum's new Exhibit Production Center at 60 Commerce Avenue. Curators were able to continue the project of organizing and inventorying the Collections while becoming familiar with their exhibit potential. Although planning for the new State Museum's exhibits was still in a preliminary stage, it was possible to begin to identify existing needs in the Collections and to attempt to acquire appropriate artifacts. In addition, rudimentary steps were taken to modernize the record-keeping system.

Soon the Collections were on the move again. Approximately 40,000 square feet of space was leased at Rotterdam Industrial Park, to which all of the History Collections were transferred in 1971. For the first time, Curators enjoyed the luxury of storing artifacts in a more organized facility, with somewhat improved environmental conditions and security, and under direct control of the Curators. From 1968 onward, the collecting program was snowballing. Spurred on by the generally low esteem in which the Collections were held and by their own energy, the Curators located and acquired such varied and significant items as the 1921 Franklin and 1931 Pierce-Arrow automobiles, a vast collection of country store merchandise and trappings, New York furniture, lighting devices, military uniforms and weapons, fire engines, a large doll and toy collection, farm machinery, and a complete merry-go-round manufactured in North Tonawanda in 1915. As word of the Museum's program spread, many lesser objects were donated to the Collections.



Curator Craig Williams working with photographs from the State History Collection.

The approaching American Revolution Bicentennial increased the pressures upon the Curatorial staff. First, the long-heralded opening of the first stage of the new State Museum was targeted for Independence Day weekend of 1976. Besides contributing to the development of exhibits in Adirondack Hall and creating the Firefighting Resource Center, the Curators played a vital role in the major

special exhibit, "Forces." Simultaneously, the State Bicentennial Commission undertook as its major statewide public activity the creation of the Bicentennial Barge. History Curators served as exhibit planners for this floating historical exhibit, which traveled New York's waterways to the enthusiastic reception of the people, and they were responsible for most of the objects on exhibit. This effort and the monitoring of the Barge during its voyage represented an extensive commitment of time.

Starting as early as 1973, the Curators were involved Museum planning for the projected New York Metropolis Hall. The on-site search for New York City artifacts received much attention during 1974-75, especially with the assistance of a special consultant working with the Curatorial staff. These collaborative efforts resulted in the acquisition of the Greek Revival warehouse from the seaport area, Metropolitan Opera artifacts, architectural elements from the Vanderbilt Mansion, theatrical materials, subway equipment, building sculpture, and other materials.

Close on the heels of the Barge's triumphant tour and the opening of the new Museum came an unscheduled special exhibit, "New York: The State of Art," in 1977. Proposed through the Governor's Office and carried out by private consultants, this landmark exhibition of New York folk art, the Hudson River School, and the New York School brought together a never-equalled display of famous New York works of art. History Curators were directly involved in receiving, handling, and responsibility for the priceless paintings. The popularity of the show caused its extension to the spring of 1978.

Although a large part of the space which had been occupied by "The State of Art" was earmarked for the forthcoming "New York Metropolis," the immense South Hall (the future Upstate Regional Hall) now stood empty. For administrative reasons, it was decided to utilize the vacant space by sto.ing large artifacts from the Collections there—an idea which unfortunately produced more problems than solutions. But once again, Curators rose to the occasion, bringing in enough vehicles, farm implements, stoves, printing presses, boats, and numerous other artifacts to cover 30,000 square feet of space. They then developed an orientation talk and 45-minute tour entitled "Curator's World" for small groups of visitors. The program was not sufficiently utilized to justify its continuation and it was dropped after the first year. The Collections remained in South Hall for six years and sustained extensive damage from leaks in the roof, malfunctioning plumbing and inadequate security. The South Hall conditions proved to be worse in some respects than even the period at Broadway.

The creation of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services in early 1979 was a turning point for the collections and the rest of the History Programs. In response to emerging administrative goals, emphasis began to be placed on the concepts of "networking" and "outreach" in a more formal manner than previously. Curators prepared special exhibits based on the Collections for circulation by the Gallery Association of New York State (GANYS), and they

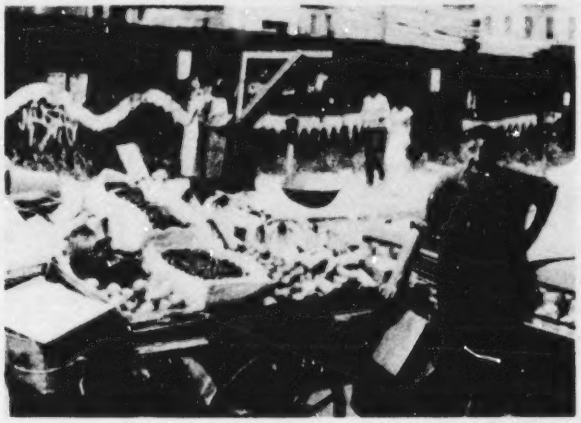
Ruthanne Brod, Registrar.

served as guest curators for exhibits at other museums. The first GANYS show, "The Great American Circus," included colorful posters and panoramic photographs from the large collection of circus material acquired since 1970. The popularity of this exhibit kept it traveling throughout the State for four years. Equally well received was "Images of Upstate," a fascinating glimpse of the way much of New York looked in the 19th century as revealed by dozens of contemporary prints. A staff member served as Guest Curator for several special exhibits to which the Museum was lending artifacts. Among these were three major exhibits on firearms of New York, miniature soldiers, and the circus, all staged at Yager Museum, SUNY at Oneonta. Additional museums, among them the Albany Institute of History and Art, Lake George Historical Society, and Clinton County Historical Society, benefited from similar assistance.

Curatorial research on subjects related to the Collections produced a number of interesting talks illustrated with slides or actual artifacts. Some of the most frequently requested topics were "Scavengers for History," "300 Years of New York Furniture," "Images of Upstate New York," "Music Halls to Movie Palaces," and "High Life and Low Life in Georgian London." Special presentations were prepared on such subjects as "Curatorial Care of Agricultural Artifacts" (for a 3-day workshop conducted by the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown, and ultimately published by NYSHA); the firefighting and bicycle collections; the uses of microcomputers in historical agencies (Northeast Museums Conference); the uses of historical photographs (Conference of Municipal Historians); the Museum's Shaker collections, the Shaker Herb industry; "A History of the N.Y. National Guard"; "Propaganda and Morale in World War II"; "New York at Gettysburg"; "Soldiers of Albany"; "Old House Research"; Dutch

barns; and "Photo Reproduction Rights: Museums and the Media" (Northeast Museums Conference).

Numerous articles, several exhibition catalogs, and a book written by Curators were published during this period. Exhibits for which catalogs were prepared featured **E. L. Henry's Country Life, Louis le Brocquy and the Celtic Head Image,** New York firearms, New York furniture, and community industries of the Shakers. The furniture catalog was expanded to include recent additions to the Collections and was published in 1984 as **New York Furniture at the New York State Museum.** Curators wrote articles on subjects related to the History Collections for such periodicals as the **Journal of the Company of Military Historians,** the **Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association,** the State Museum's **NAHO, Antiques Magazine, Connoisseur,** the **New York-Pennsylvania Collector, Military Images, Circus Report,** and **Colonial Homes.**



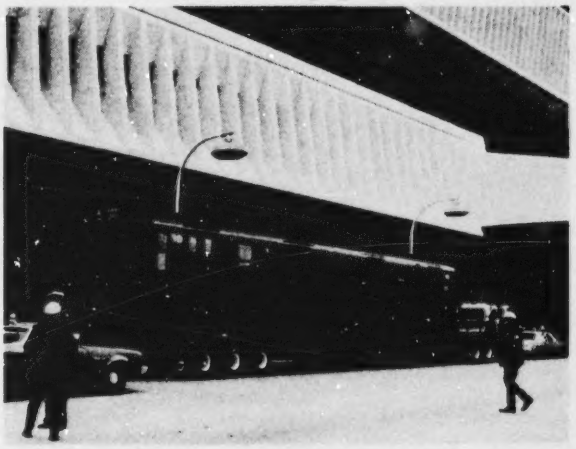
Joseph Schonhaut (a.k.a. Joe Murphy) and his peddlar's cart, now part of the Museum's New York Metropolis.

Within the Museum, many of the projects essential to the completion of the New York Metropolis regional hall required Curatorial input. A major role was played by Curators in the creation of the life-cast figures for the Tenement Scene, Delmonico Cafe, and other life-size dioramas. The search for specific artifacts continued, enlivened by the occasional acquisition of an object as unusual as an actual New York City subway car from the "A" Train; or as unexpected as the historically significant Tuck High dry goods store from Chinatown; or as whimsical as the set from television's popular **Sesame Street;** or as personalized as the peddler's cart purchased from the fruit vendor right after a mugging forced him into retirement; or as affluent-appearing as the elegant New York Stock Exchange trading post; or as steeped in unspoken history as the paneling and doors from the Vanderbilt Mansion's Library; or as symbolic of the world of make-believe as the personal memorabilia of Maud Adams, the theater's first Peter Pan, and of comedian Joe Cook, as well as the box office and other features from Broadway's Helen Hayes Theater.

Sharing the spotlight with the permanent halls were a number of ambitious temporary exhibits drawn from the History Collections. Of particular note were "Agricultural New York," "The Seating of New York," "Labelled and Documented New York Furniture," "Community Industries of the Shakers--A New Look," "Images of the City," "New York in Motion," "The Circus Comes to Town," "The Home Front in World War II," "Ice Boating," and a series of traditional Christmas exhibits. In addition, several exhibitions brought to the Museum on loan were enlarged and made more interesting by the addition of appropriate materials from the Collections. These included "Oom-Pa-Pa! The Great American Band," "Made in Buffalo," "Center Ring: The Artist," and "The Belmont Look." Curators were also assigned to develop special exhibits on education in New York and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Centennial, and to coordinate the special exhibit of the art of Louis le Brocquy.

In keeping with a desire to assist other museums throughout the State, objects from the Collections are frequently lent for specifically defined purposes, primarily exhibition in similar organizations. More than a hundred loans covering thousands of items have been made since 1979.

Finally, a look at the Accession Ledger for the years since 1978 illustrates the transformation the Collections have undergone in fifteen years, in terms of objectives as well as quality. Besides the examples mentioned earlier, their changing character is evident



A subway car from the A-Train as it arrived at the State Museum.

in acquisitions as diverse as landscape-decorated wooden walls from an early Fonda house; Ku Klux Klan costumes and literature; political campaign paraphernalia; several fire engines; a hansom cab; the wall clock from the Senate Chamber in the Hooker Capitol; a collection of paintings of Erie Canal scenes and Revolutionary War forts by J. Erwin Porter; tools and equipment from a blacksmith shop, a shoe shop, and a barber shop; a Brooklyn school classroom; a large number of lithographs of New York State views; several musical instruments manufactured in New York; numerous pieces of furniture bearing marks or labels of New York makers; a collection of documented 19th century pottery; minstrel show posters and photographs; the Adele Gloria theater collection; circus posters, photographs, scale models, sideshow banners, and equipment; 300 glass negatives of Rogers and Cooke locomotives, 1860-1900; eleven photographs by Lewis Hines, and a portfolio of twenty Coney Island

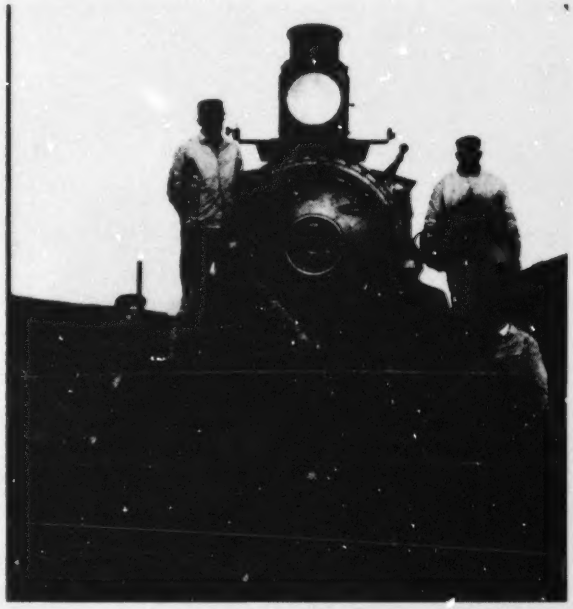
photographs by Steve Salmieri; Nott Patent Stove, Schenectady, 1832; Pierce-Arrow Travelodge Travel Trailer, c. 1937; a large collection of postcards of New York State subjects; early 20th-century baseball uniforms; women's military and Red Cross uniforms from the World Wars; women's suffrage and Prohibition banners; a denim jacket worn at Woodstock; several quilts and coverlets.

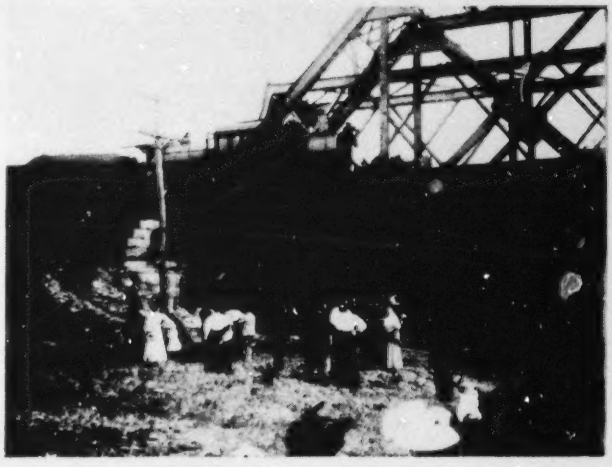
NEW YORK FURNITURE
at the New York State Museum

by John L. Scherer
Associate Curator of Decorative Arts and Prints

The book contains illustrations of 132 pieces of New York furniture with an index and bibliography. It can be ordered for $20.00 per copy (plus 7% sales tax for NYS residents). Make checks payable to The University of the State of New York and send to the Museum Shop, New York State Museum, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230.

With greater emphasis today on conservation, care, and cataloging (including computerization) of the Collections, the number of accessions has generally decreased since 1978. In that year 215 accessions were recorded, by donation or purchase. Each accession can range from a single item to 20,000 or more in the case of a country store collection, for example, so no precise number of actual individual acquisitions is available. In 1979, accessions decreased to 190, and the trend continued in 1980 to 173, and in 1981 to 139. Though there was a slight upturn in 1982, the numbers have declined to a low of 92 in 1984. At the same time, a systematic program of restoration and conservation of paintings, textiles, and paper collections has begun. This aspect of collections care will receive high priority for the next several years, in keeping with the responsibility implicit in the Museum's acquiring the objects. Another essential function is the establishment and operation of an efficient record-keeping system utilizing computers and other electronic devices sophisticated enough to sort and correlate data and to produce usable lists and cards, yet simple enough for Curators to learn to operate, and economical enough to be supported by limited resources. After experimentation with a manual Keysort system in the 1960's, the Curatorial Unit collaborated with the Strong Museum in Rochester and several other institutions in developing a standardized nomenclature for use with History collections. From this project emerged a computerized program of cataloging artifacts, using computers at the University of Rochester. In 1984, these files were transferred to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute computers, which now are the nerve center for the State History Collections' record-keeping operation.





Photographs from the History Collection of the 1908 D & H train wreck in Sidney, NY.

The Anthropological Services Program

The Anthropological Services Program performs scientific studies of the Native American cultures of New York State in terms of their origins, prehistory, early contacts with European civilization, and relationships to larger natural and cultural environments. These researches involve the location of archeological sites through literature search and field surveys, their recording, mapping and systematic excavation, the interpretation of the collected data and artifacts, and publication of the results. A major goal is the reconstruction of the economic, technological, social and religious aspects of Indian cultures. Artifacts are placed in a historical framework by means of various techniques including radiocarbon dating, and their environmental settings are analyzed with the aid of specialists in Pleistocene geology, riverine sediments, fossil pollen, paleontology, and other disciplines.

Decades of research by scientists of this office and some other institutions have established a sequence of Native American occupancy going back to the late glacial period in New York, about 11,000 years ago. Gaps in the known sequence are being filled by continuing research. Aboriginal man experienced many environmental changes, some rather dramatic, over this period. These variations strongly influenced the evolution of his cultures.

New directions in American archeology are profoundly affecting archeologists' ideas and methods. At the same time, archeological sites of all kinds are being erased by landscape-modifying agents of modern civilization. Recent Federal and State legislation has been designed to ensure the location, identification, study and protection of sites threatened by publicly funded or licensed construction projects. These laws, the agencies which are responsible for their implementation, and guidelines issued by those agencies have contributed to the rise of "public archeology," a term which reflects efforts by archeologists, politicians, and bureaucrats to effectively manage our remaining cultural resources.

The Anthropological Services Program plays an important role in public archeology within New York State. It also provides a variety of services to the general public, students, amateur archeologists, professional anthropologists, Federal and State agencies, museums, and universities.

Prehistoric Research I

Since the late 19th century, State Museum archeologists have been dedicated to the gathering of data on the aboriginal occupations of New York State. These efforts involved the recording of known sites, the excavation of unusually informative sites, the acquisition of artifact collections, and the publication of reports on these activities. Descriptive reports on Native American artifacts of diverse materials were published by the Rev. W.M. Beauchamp (1897a, 1897b, 1898, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1902b, 1903, 1905). Major listings of sites, organized by counties, were published by Beauchamp (1900) and later by Parker (1922). Parker (1922) developed a major conceptual scheme for the classification of Indian cultures. This scheme served a useful purpose for nearly 20 years, until superseded by a new formulation by W.A. Ritchie (1944, 1951, 1965).

Since the Museum's earliest years, a major focus of interest has been the culture of the Iroquoian peoples who played a crucial role in the early history of this nation. The origin and development of these peoples remain central research issues today. By means of the "direct historical approach" archeologists are able to project the material culture of the historic Iroquois into the prehistoric period, tracing changes in their cultural tradition backward, against the flow of time. In the absence of written records, this method depends heavily on the analysis of characteristic pottery styles, house types, projectile points, and other material evidence.

Archeological research is ideally conducted with an awareness of specific problems to be solved. These problems are potentially almost unlimited in number. One researcher may be interested primarily in knowing the age of a particular culture; a second worker may be concerned with understanding prehistoric hunting and gathering economies; and a third may be seeking general laws of culture process.

Modern archeology is therefore problem-oriented, in contrast to early 19th century antiquarianism in which unusual or exotic artifacts were the center of interest. It often takes the form of regional research designs, which are expensive, requiring the cooperation of multiple institutions, and the collaboration of scholars from various disciplines. Archeologists lean heavily on anthropology, their parent discipline, for theoretical concepts, ethnological data, and the findings of human biology (physical anthropology). But they increasingly draw on the expertise of physical and biological scientists such as geologists, paleontologists, zoologists, botanists, physicists, statisticians, and ecologists, because of the realization that human beings and their cultures are properly understood in relation to their past and present environments. Most present-day

archeologists have adopted the theoretical orientation of cultural ecology.

An archeologist begins a regional project with a set of research goals in mind. These reflect the problems to be solved. Hopefully, he or she has worked out the logical consequences of the goals in terms of approaches, methods, and techniques needed to attain them. The research then proceeds in a series of steps or stages, beginning with a thorough literature search (determining what is already known, including previous archeological work). Much valuable information may be available from local amateur archeologists, historians, museums, libraries, and other sources. In this way sites are mapped, artifact collections recorded, and the landscape studied before field work actually begins.

Previously recorded sites are examined and tested. Survey teams also proceed to systematically search for new sites. Once the survey phase is complete, the data are assessed, and sites are selected for large-scale excavation. Upon termination of this phase, all collected objects, environmental samples, and associated data are transported to the laboratory. Artifacts and samples are catalogued, and analysis begins.

The analyses include the classification of artifacts into types; the determination (if possible) of functions from wear and breakage patterns; formal and functional analysis of pits, hearths, house patterns, etc.; the identification of animal and plant food remains from refuse deposits; radiocarbon-dating of organic materials; physical studies of sediments; and the study of associated fossil pollen. These analyses form the basis for the next step of interpretation, which is the process of attempting to answer the questions posed at the beginning of the project. Finally, the project and its results are written up and published so that other scientists, scholars, and the lay public may benefit from what is, hopefully, a new contribution to knowledge about past human cultural achievements.

Archeology has revealed that Native Americans entered New York State and the Northeast about 11,000 year ago from the south and west, following the close of the last Ice Age. From that time to the European discovery of the New World, a great diversity of cultures arose, flourished, and disappeared to be replaced by new cultures.

Staff archeologists of the Division have written a number of summaries and syntheses of research findings in New York and adjoining areas (Ritchie 1951, 1965, 1969a, 1969b, 1980; Ritchie and Funk 1973; Funk 1976, 1983).

Prehistoric Research II: The Upper Susquehanna Project

The vast majority of Native American archeological sites are concentrated in the lowland regions of the State. These are also the areas of densest occupation and heaviest industrialization in modern time. This office has devoted much time and effort to survey and excavation projects in major drainage basins including the Hudson, Mohawk, Schoharie, and Susquehanna Valleys.

The State Archeologist directed excavations in the Upper Susquehanna Valley from 1971 through 1982. Field schools from the State University of New York at Albany and the State University of New York at Oneonta assisted in the work. Over 40 prehistoric sites were found by survey teams. Of this group, 22 sites located on the river flood plain were chosen for excavation. These sites contained buried living floors pertaining to a number of different prehistoric cultures. Approximately 110 radiocarbon dates have been obtained for a regional sequence spanning 9000 years. Contributions were made to this project by specialists from other disciplines, including Zoology, Geology, Botany and Palynology. Several bogs in the Upper Susquehanna Valley were sampled because they contained evidence of long postglacial vegetation sequences. The fossil pollen samples have been analyzed by the State Museum Palynologist. These bog sediments have been radiocarbon-dated and provide a picture of environmental change which seems to correlate with some changes in early Indian cultures.

Both field and laboratory phases of the Upper Susquehanna Project have been completed. The results are presented in a major monograph written by the State Archeologist, with contributions from several collaborators. It is expected to go to press in 1985. Aspects of this project have been summarized in a number of articles (Funk 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983: Funk and Rippeteau 1977; Funk and Wellman 1984; Funk, et al 1973, 1974).

The Archeology Collections

The Office acquires, identifies, catalogues, and maintains archeological collections. These comprise the major part of the anthropological collections held by the State Museum for exhibit and research. They are frequently utilized by New York State scholars and regularly visited by researchers comparing materials from the Eastern United States and Canada. Over 500,000 separate objects are in the archeological collection.

The scientific collections acquired by staff archeologists consist of artifacts, as well as special samples helpful in the interpretation of the environmental settings, foods, raw materials, and other

resources available to ancient peoples. These collections are accompanied by detailed data in the form of provenance records, maps, stratigraphic profiles, and floor plans. They include materials representing the full range of human occupation over the last 11,000 years: chipped stone projectile points, knives, scrapers, hammerstones and many other kinds of tools as well as fired clay pottery, pipes, ornaments of stone, bone, and shell, and ceremonial objects.

Segments of the collections have been donated by other professional archeologists, including those working on publicly funded construction projects. Many private individuals, with an avocational interest in archeology, have also donated their collections to the museum. In addition, there is a considerable ethnographic collection of historic period native artifacts, containing approximately 1200 items. Most of them were manufactured by tribal groups of the League of Iroquois. The objects date from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries, and most were acquired by well-known Iroquois scholars Lewis Henry Morgan and Harriet Converse. This collection is of particular interest to students of native material culture and also to exhibit designers both in the State Museum and other institutions. These materials are regularly made available to such institutions for study or display.

On the average, the collections are used by 12 visitors per year, chiefly graduate students and professional archeologists, representing a variety of museums and universities.

Through funding from two IMS grants received in 1984, two trained persons have been hired to inventory and reorganize the osteological and ethnological collections. Denise Hodges, SUNY Albany doctoral candidate in physical anthropology, completed work on the skeletal remains. This resulted in a computerized inventory of the collection. Ray Gonyea, a Native American trained in museum work, has reorganized the important collection of 19th century Iroquois specimens acquired by Lewis Henry Morgan, Harriet Converse, and others. A computerized inventory will also result from this effort. A future goal is the complete inventorying, cross-checking, and reorganization of the archeological collection.

Informational Services

Information is provided to researchers, educators, exhibitors, and the general public through publications as well as consultation and verbal presentations. Publications range from major syntheses used and cited by professionals throughout the Eastern United States and Canada to leaflets and pamphlets popular with students and the general public.

Archeological data and consulting services are provided to contract archeologists, New York State Museum educators and exhibit planners, other New York State agencies, researchers, and community groups including amateur societies and local museums.

As part of its informational services, the Archeology Office compiles descriptions and studies of collections. Maintenance of a data base depends heavily on field research, often in conjunction with specialists in geology and biology. Work in the field or laboratory is assisted by State University students and amateur volunteers.

Thus the Office of Archeology performs numerous scientific and educational functions. Its resources, including the State Site Record File, are useful to archeologists, government agencies, and contracting firms who need reliable information for environmental impact assessments on planned highways, sewer lines, gas lines, and other projects regulated by Federal and State laws. Over 5000 sites, both historic and prehistoric, are currently in the file.

Several dozen contract archeologists and agency officials benefit from these information sources each year. Important clients in the last five years have included the New York State Department of Transportation, the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Park Service, and the State University of New York at Buffalo, Binghamton, Albany, Potsdam, Oneonta, and Stony Brook.

Archeology staff are currently assisting the exhibit planners in the design and scripting of the major Native American exhibit which will be located in Upstate Hall of the Cultural Education Center. This exhibit will include five new life groups; production of the Paleo-Indian group is well-advanced. It will be followed by an Archaic life group and three Iroquois groups. There will also be a series of panel-and-case exhibits presenting detailed information, with accompanying artifacts and graphics, on the highlights of Native American cultural development after the Ice Age.

The professional staff also participated in the Identification Days held several times at the State Museum since 1981. These take place on Saturdays, giving the public and amateur archeologists an opportunity to bring in objects for identification and comment.

Student and Volunteer Programs

The office has an ongoing volunteer program to provide training in field, laboratory, and curatorial practices to interested individuals. The program includes students registered for courses at SUNY Albany and SUC Oneonta.

In the office, these volunteers work under the direction of Archeologist Beth Wellman, assisting in cataloguing, research, and collections management.

Both SUNY at Albany and Oneonta now have museum intern courses which have placed students in the Archeology Office. Since 1979 five students have enrolled in museum internships of varying lengths, providing 1400 hours of valuable assistance at the office.

Since 1971, the office has regularly accepted SUNY Albany community service students. In the past five years, 28 students have enrolled in the program and provided the office with about 1900 hours of help.

During this period, seven additional people have volunteered in the office, working for over 400 hours. Furthermore, 19 volunteers have provided 570 hours of assistance in the excavation of archeological sites.

In 1981, the office obtained the help of the SUC Oneonta field school in the excavation of a unique early site. Seven students and two assistants, provided by the university, worked for 6 weeks. In 1982, funding by the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation provided for an assistant for 8 weeks on the same site.

Public Archeology: The Cultural Resource Survey Program

The Cultural Resource Survey Program (formerly "Highway Salvage Archeology") is a local history field research program aimed at the evaluation of construction projects in terms of potential impact on prehistoric and historic sites and structures. Environmental impact studies for cultural resources are required by Federal and State law and are conducted for the Department of Transportation by the Anthropology unit under an interagency agreement in effect since 1963, and for other State agencies on an as-needed basis annually.

Studies under this program have been carried out in virtually every county in New York, supported by Division expenditures of over $1.5 million since early 1979, of which about 70 percent was federally reimbursed. Field operations are often carried out by professional and student anthropologists at various cooperating SUNY institutions under the overall direction of the State Archeologist. These sub-contracted studies have involved as many as eight colleges and universities across the State and have funnelled hundreds of thousands of dollars into SUNY anthropology departments, providing summer jobs and serious research opportunities for dozens of graduate and undergraduate archeology and history students who might otherwise be unable to find field experience during their academic careers.

Hundreds of miles of proposed highway corridor, canal alignment and railroad right of way have been surveyed and scores of previously undocumented prehistoric and historic sites have been found. Projects in urban areas have revealed many historic sites ranging from late 18th century homesteads to standing structures of the late 19th century, including many early mills and mill sites, portions of the 1830 Erie and 1795 pre-Erie canal systems in the Mohawk Valley, and sections of the Old Champlain Canal in the Upper Hudson area. Thousands of artifacts have been recovered representing cultural activity in New York State from the 26th century B.C. to the present. In addition, non-artifactual data on these sites have filled many hundreds of pages of detailed field notes, maps, and charts. Increasing numbers of standing structures dating from the late 18th through early 20th centuries were also inventoried and reported, increasing the architectural inventory files at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation by several hundred items per year.

The findings of these field surveys have been summarized in over 700 final and 650 preliminary reports since 1979, providing the Department of Transportation and other contracting State agencies with the scientific basis for determining which sites require protection and what means of protection would be most appropriate. Some sites may be avoided by project redesign, others excavated to recover and preserve the information they contain.

Since 1979, the State Museum survey crew has played an increasingly significant role in the program. This crew not only conducts effective field investigations on short notice over a wide area of the State, it also efficiently draws on the resources of the State Library and State Archives in developing its documentary research reports. The range of cultural resources studies undertaken by this in-house staff reflects the range of cultural resource research areas in which the program has become involved. These studies include everything from architectural inventory in a 19th century urban neighborhood in Troy where standing structures were the primary focus, to a historical reconstruction project in Comstock where documentary sources were used to recreate on paper a tiny 19th century village that was completely wiped out by the enlargement of the Old Champlain Canal a century ago. Other canal-related studies include an archeological and documentary survey of the Old Erie and original Champlain Canal system in Cohoes which located evidence of a private, previously forgotten "Junction Canal" connecting the Old Erie with the Hudson River for a brief period almost 150 years ago. Nearby, archeologists studying a Cohoes vacant lot sandwiched between an industrial complex and the abandoned trough of the Old Champlain Canal, produced evidence of an 18th century Dutch house site and, underneath it, an intact Indian site dating back over 4,000 years.

In Rensselaer, eighteenth century road patterns were painstakingly reconstructed to determine whether a 17th century mill site was within the area of a bridge replacement project. A few blocks away, emergency

field monitoring was undertaken where construction had unearthed the original Dutch waterfront where several 18th century buildings, including the famous "Red Store," were believed to have stood. Over three dozen 19th century water-powered mill sites, most in ruins, were investigated, including a large saw mill complex in Sullivan County and an obscure flax processing complex in the hill country of Rensselaer County.

Perhaps the most broadly based project study, covering the widest range of historic themes and types of archeological sites, involved a new roadway through Kaaterskill Clove, a deep and historic ravine in Greene County. On field maps, the staff documented and reconstituted archeological sites in the Clove that included an early wagon road and bridge system, now almost lost in steep, forested terrain; a huge and remote early 19th century tannery complex, now a sprawling ruin; an associated worker village represented only by scattered foundation holes along the creek; the almost vanished tiny village of "Old Palenville," site of some Hudson River School artists' homes and studios and the reputed locale of Washington Irving's tale of **Rip Van Winkle**, and finally several picturesque natural areas immortalized in famous landscape paintings of the era and Indian legend.

A survey find that was perhaps the most significant in terms of New York State history was the excavation of a portion of the roadbed of New York's first railroad, the Mohawk and Hudson, built in 1831 between Albany and Schenectady. One of the earliest railroads in the nation, and utilizing a technology not well documented in historic sources, this was the first archeological investigation ever undertaken on this rail system, of which only 1000 feet remain intact dating to the original unmodified line. The first railroad artifacts found in an archeological context were recovered during this study, including track sections, spikes, and ballast. They were used to confirm the authenticity of reputed M&HRR artifacts held by the Albany Institute of History and Art. In addition, research connected with the study revealed that the track and rail arrangement commonly illustrated for the M&HRR, was in fact, in error. Data were gathered from the Smithsonian and from archeological excavations on other early 19th century rail systems in Maryland to confirm the hypothesized track technology. Through these efforts the scientific significance of the railroad site was recognized and the project redesigned to avoid and preserve that area forever.

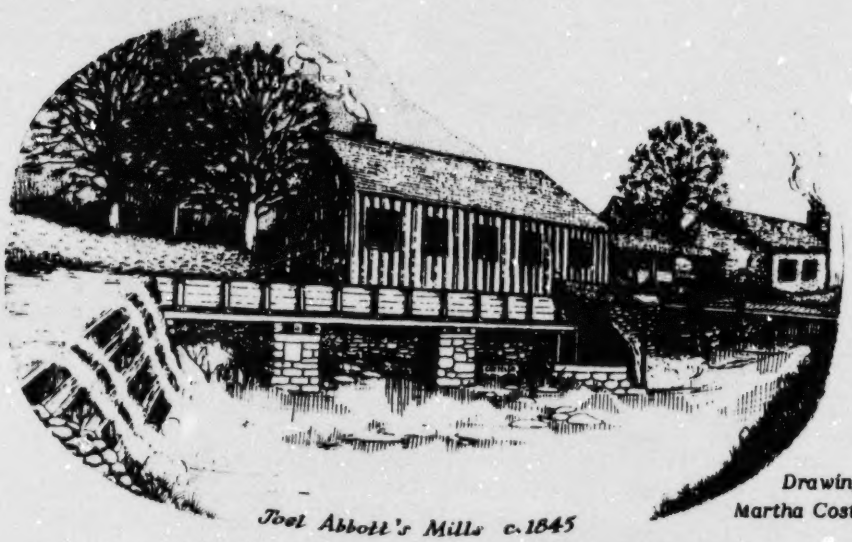
Finally, field emergencies not only required the observation of construction already mentioned, but the rescue and inventory of a copper time capsule unearthed during bridge demolition. It contained a perfectly preserved collection of documents and artifacts relating to the Sullivan County community of Washingtonville in 1876. The contents were returned on loan to the community as a display under the supervision of the Sullivan County Historical Society.

Cultural resource studies were conducted in 1983 on an emergency basis for the Department of Correctional Services in connection with prison facility expansion projects. The most interesting of these focused on archeological excavations at Groveland, where construction would impact portions of the Groveland Shaker Village, a major but sparsely documented community of this significant religious movement. The village survives as a few scattered buildings within a more recent hospital complex. Careful documentary research was undertaken in conjunction with local historians and Shaker research groups from the project area, through the extensive holdings of the State Museum and State Library, and through intensive archeological excavation. The village plan was reconstructed, and, as a result, the prison expansion avoided several historic Shaker building sites previously undiscovered. Another prison-related survey in Washington County revealed an entire early 19th century village associated with the Old Champlain Canal, but abandoned and reduced to ruins before the turn of the century. Archeological investigation based on 1834 canal maps in the State Archives and historic maps and documents in the State Library allowed the reconstruction of this vanished village and the preservation of significant portions of it.

Drawing by Joel Snyder.

In 1984, the program received a grant to undertake a comprehensive preliminary cultural resources survey of the entire Allegany State Park in western New York as part of a major environmental study initiated by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Prehistoric and historic sources were exhaustively researched for site data. With a field survey, a set of planning maps were prepared showing historic and archeologically sensitive areas for reference during future park development planning. Hopefully, because of this study, proposed construction projects will avoid identified sites, permitting additional archeological research.

These scientific field research services in local history and archeology, undertaken under environmental impact contracts with other state agencies, have a tremendous value in terms of statewide archeological and historical research opportunities. They have enhanced the knowledge and appreciation of these research areas, both at the State Museum and at the localities in which these projects have been undertaken. They have often acted as a catalyst for the synthesis of disconnected fact and data for particular localities,



Joel Abbott's Mills c.1845

Drawing by Martha Costello.

The artists' reconstruction of a previously unknown 1840's mill complex was made possible by the combined historical and archeological research techniques described in the 1984 publication ***Mills on the Tsatsawassa.***

expanding the knowledge base in New York State history.

With artifact collections derived from cultural resource surveys approaching a level of hundreds of thousands of items of all levels of scientific significance and chronological affiliation, a collections management project has been initiated that will sort and cull these collections to make them more effective as data sources, both for research and for reference and teaching purposes. Three categories are being created: research collections from which historical data of significance can be gained with further study; collections of artifacts of no research utility except as a cataloged and categorized reference or "type" collections for comparative use by historical archeologists; and finally, items of no value to be disposed. This project was initiated in late 1984 and will run to late 1990 until the backlog has been processed. Then it will become a maintenance function of the program.

An indirect outgrowth of the Cultural Resources Survey Program was the publication in early 1984 of **Mills on the Tsatsawassa.** This book incorporated many of the techniques and research methodologies developed and tested by the program and applied them to a community research area not arbitrarily limited by environmental impact concerns or client contract restrictions. The research focused on the reconstruction of early 19th century mill sites and water power systems using primary source data, such as property deeds, coupled with field survey. The blending of historical and archeological research techniques applied to the local historic community situation revealed a wealth of otherwise incomplete or incorrect data and provided a case study of relevance and utility to local historians, teachers and archeologists interested in community industrial research projects.

During the past 5 years, over 80 inquiries were received regarding our Archeological Permit Program, administered under the Education Law since 1964. The excavation or removal of historic objects from State lands or from under State waters requires a permit approved by the Commissioner of Education. Of the 53 permits issued for archeological investigation on State land during this period, more than two-thirds were to divers and underwater archeologists for survey and site examination connected with historic shipwrecks dating from the mid-18th century into the 20th century. For example, the Champlain Maritime Society of Montpelier, Vermont is locating, identifying, mapping, and examining several 18th and 19th century military vessels in Lake Champlain sunk during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

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The following is a list of the current staff of the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services with each person's area of responsibility and phone number:

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HISTORY SERVICES

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John S. Still, Chief Curator 474-5353

Ruthanne Mills Brod, Registrar; Curator of women's history collections. 474-6917

Ronald J. Burch, Deputy Registrar; Curator of folk art, paintings, social history, architectural elements, sculpture. 473-1746

Duncan E. Hay, Curator of industrial machinery, machine-powered shops, machinery for crafts and trades (milling, printing, etc.), textiles, textile equipment, industrial history, boats. 473-1746

Robert E. Mulligan, Curator of military uniforms, weapons, military history, military miniatures, police and prisons, costume, medical, dental, pharmaceutical, stamps, numismatics. 473-1746

John L. Scherer, Curator of furniture, silver, ceramics, glass, musical instruments, music boxes, phonographs, lighting devices, posters, prints, theater, circus, popular entertainment. 473-1746

Geoffrey N. Stein, Curator of transportation, agriculture, firefighting, power sources, street lighting, electric lighting, electrical appliances, communications. 473-1746

John S. Watson, Curator of hand tools and craft shops, scientific instruments, surveying instruments. Also, chartering of cultural agencies in northern New York and the Apple Network program. 473-1746

Craig S. Williams, Curator of mercantile shops, domestic arts, toys, dolls, games, sports, photography, postcards, ephemera, political paraphernalia, education. 473-1746

Jane Kjaer, Coordinator of the Collections computerization program. 473-1746

James Bellamy, Curatorial Assistant 473-1746

Research and Field Program

Edmund J. Winslow, Senior historian, chartering of cultural agencies in southern and western New York State, field services to local historians, geographic place names. 474-5375

Joseph F. Meany, Senior historian, chartering of cultural agencies in metropolitan New York, special legislative projects. 474-5375

Sheila Tucker, Editor and coordinator of women's history programs. 474-6917

Keith Prior, Artist 474-6917

Karen Carmody, Senior Stenographer 473-1299

Joelean Dearstyne, Information Processing Specialist I 473-1299

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New York State History Network

The New York State History Network contains news of history-related activities and programs focusing on New York State. The NETWORK is compiled by the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services of the State Museum and is published by the State Education Department. The NETWORK is distributed free of charge to members of history support agencies.

Network Staff: Sheila Tucker, Keith Prior, Joelean Dearstyne

Contributors: Stefan Bielinski, Paul Scudiere, John Still, Ruthanne Mills Brod, Robert Funk, and Philip Lord.

New York State history-related news is appropriate for inclusion. News items should be concisely written and typed double spaced. Address all information and questions to Sheila Tucker, Newsletter Editor. 3093 CEC, Empire State Plaza, Albany 12230, (518) 474-6917.